

Patent
Attorney Docket: 491,920-029
(prev 263/103)

REMARKS

Applicant has reviewed the specification in an attempt to clean up outstanding minor issues, and accordingly, has updated the priority claim information to make it current, and has conformed the numbering in the Figures to the text to ensure correspondence.

The claims all recite that "the channels being formed by cutting the second surface of the sheet". This addition is supported in the specification (e.g., see page 3, line 11 of the April 7, 2003 Amendment and Response; "...it is easily cut by a knife..."). Campbell et al. discloses apparatus and methods for the manufacture of an ePTFE product. The product is formed by extruding a tube by, in combination, a hollow, cylindrical barrel containing a mandrel centrally positioned within the barrel, the extrusion device including a helically grooved extrusion tip and/or a helically grooved extrusion die.

Applicant's claims were, and are, patentably distinguishable over Campbell et al.. As can be seen in the microphotographs of Figs. 7, 8 and 9, Campbell does not include "a plurality of elongated, continuous channels extending into the thickness dimension of the sheet, the channels being formed by cutting the second surface of the sheet". The manufacturing methods result in significantly different structural results.

Applicant has cancelled claims 99 to 109, 11, 115 to 121, 123 to 157. Claims 162 to 169 are newly added, all without the addition of new matter.

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Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner disagree, or if any matter remains, Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned be contacted by telephone to resolve all issues in the case.

Respectfully submitted,

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